

Fall 8-15-2007

## ENG 2003-002: Creative Writing: Poetry

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**English 2003-002: Creative Writing: Poetry**

Dr. Miho Nonaka

Time: 2-2:50 p.m. MWF      Class Location: Coleman 3159

Office: Coleman 3821    Mail Box: Coleman 3155    Phone: 581-6972    Email: mnonaka@eiu.edu

Office Hours: MW 1-2 p.m., 3-3:30 p.m., F 1-2 p.m., and by appointment

**Policies:**

\* Your attendance is important for everyone, but especially for you. If you miss more than 3 classes, I will lower your final grade by a letter. If you miss 5 or more classes, you will either drop the course or accept an F for the semester. As outlined in the student catalogue, I will consider an absence excused only for “reasons of illness, emergency, or university activity.” Unexcused absences are pretty much all others—oversleeping, hangovers, finishing papers for other classes, out-of-town trips (especially on Fridays), etc..

\* All assignments must be typed and printed in black ink. You are responsible for saving copies of any work turned in for grading. Make sure to keep the old drafts of any work you do for the course. You will have to include the earlier version of every poem (with my comments still attached) in your final portfolio, along with the revised version, so that I can grade your progress in poetic technique. Save all work in some kind of folder, dated and labeled.

**Assignments:**

Over the semester, along with completing writing exercises, you will compose poems, a number of which you will present to the class and revise.

You will be assigned a presentation in which you will choose a poem by a contemporary poet, provide background about the poem and lead the class in discussion by asking several analysis questions. Keep the background information minimum, though; I am more interested in your own interpretation of what the poet is trying to do through his/her particular use of language. The poem has to have been published in the last 20 years, in a book or a nationally recognized literary magazine.

A midterm exam will cover basic terms and poetic concepts from reading assignments and class discussions.

There will be no final exam; at the semester's end, you will instead submit a portfolio which should include 6-8 of your best revised poems with previous drafts to show your progress.

**Grading:**

Participation (your attendance, participation in class discussion, and both spoken and typed comments on your peers' poems): 20%

Writing assignments (may include in-class exercises and quizzes): 10%

Presentation: 15%

Midterm exam: 15%

Portfolio: 40%

## Course Calendar

This is a tentative schedule, and any change will be announced in class. All the readings come from Vendler's *Poems, Poets, Poetry* unless otherwise specified.

### Week 5

M Sep 17: Poem #2 due; workshop    *Last day to Withdraw*

W Sep 19: Workshop

F Sep 21: Workshop

### Week 6

M Sep 24: Chapter 5 "The Play of Language"

W Sep 26: Poem # 3 due; workshop

F Sep 28: Workshop

### Week 7

M Oct 1: Workshop

W Oct 3: Poem # 4 due; workshop; sign up for conferences

F Oct 5: Workshop

### Week 8

M Oct 8: Workshop

W Oct 10: Mid-Term

F Oct 12: No class; Fall Break

### Week 9

M Oct 15: Conferences

W Oct 17: Conferences

F Oct 19: Conferences

### Week 10

M Oct 22: Poem #5 due; presentations

W Oct 24: Workshop

F Oct 26: Workshop

### Week 11

M Oct 29: Poem # 6 due; workshop

W Oct 31: Workshop; presentation

F Nov 2: Workshop; presentation    *Last Day for W for Course Withdrawal*

### Week 12

M Nov 5: Workshop

W Nov 7: Poem #7 due; presentations

F Nov 9: Presentations

Week 13

M Nov 12: Workshop

W Nov 14: Workshop

F Nov 16: Presentations

Week 14

M Nov 19: No class; Thanksgiving

W Nov 21: No class; Thanksgiving

F Nov 23: No class; Thanksgiving

Week 15

M Nov 26: Poem #8 due; presentations

W Nov 28: Presentations

F Nov 30: Presentations

Week 16

M Dec 3: TBA

W Dec 5: TBA

F Dec 7: Last class day; final portfolio due